

**THE DWASTRE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health.
1921.**

STOWMARKET :
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To the
Chairman and Members
of the
Thedwastre Rural District Council.

STOWMARKET,
April, 1922.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Thedwastre for the year ending 31st December, 1921.

According to instructions received from the Ministry of Health a full detailed Report called a "Survey Report" will be required about once in five years, and in the intermediate years a more brief Report called an "Ordinary Report" will be required; the present one being as requested an Ordinary Report, and compiled according to the instructions received.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 34126.

Population (1921) 8420.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 2128.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 2128.

Rateable Value at September 30th, 1921, £40,208.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £167. 10s. 8d.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate	179	92	87	} Birth Rate (R.G.) 22.9 per 1000
Illegitimate	8	4	4	

Deaths ... 88 42 46 Death Rate (R.G.) 10.4 ,,

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of,

childbirth { from sepsis Nil
,, other causes Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate 42.7. Illegitimate 0. Total 42.7.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2.

Any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment:—There were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis (6 of these being Pulmonary), 9 deaths from Cancer, 20 deaths from Heart Disease, 9 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage, and of the 8 deaths of Infants under 1 year 4 were registered as being due to "Congenital Debility" or "Premature Birth."

Analysis of the 9 deaths from Cancer:—

Situation notified as	Œsophagus	in 2
" "	Stomach	in 1
" "	Intestines	in 2
" "	Liver	in 1
" "	Rectum	in 2

and one I cannot trace, at any rate 8 out of 9 in the Intestinal Tract.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	3	2	Nil
Scarlet Fever	8	5	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	—	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	—	
Pneumonia	1	—	
Other diseases generally notifiable			
Erysipelas	1	—	
Malaria	1	—	
Other diseases notifiable locally	Nil		
Tuberculosis:—			
(a) Pulmonary	{ M. - 1 F. - 6 Total - 7	7	
(b) Non-pulmonary	{ M. - 1 F. - 1 Total - 2	2	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum Cases Notified ... Nil.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There have been no specially noteworthy causes of sickness during the year; on the other hand whilst Scarlet Fever has been very prevalent in most districts, in this district only 8 cases were notified, 5 of these being in one house, which 5 cases were all admitted into the Isolation Hospital. There was no Influenza epidemic.

There were 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified as against 14 cases the previous year.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS,

Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home and Midwives.

The Suffolk Nursing Association have Nurses in most of the parishes, 3 or 4 parishes being linked together for this purpose; these Nurses in most districts combine general nursing and maternity work.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, the parishes being very scattered, but health visitors are employed in this work by the West Suffolk County Council.

The Clinic for Venereal Diseases is held at Bury St. Edmunds.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

There is a Fever Hospital with 24 beds for the use of three districts—Stowmarket Urban, East Stow Rural and Thedwastre Rural Districts, maintained by the 3 districts concerned; this hospital has been nearly full for the greater part of the year, 97 cases in all being admitted (with one death from Diphtheria from the East Stow District), only one case (Diphtheria) had to be sent to another Hospital for lack of a vacant bed.

Baths for patients and nursing staff were provided this year, and a Mortuary has since been provided.

There is no Cottage Hospital in the district. Ordinary Hospital cases have to be sent to Bury St. Edmunds.

Ambulance facilities.

(a) Horse Ambulance for infectious cases.

(b) Motor Ambulance from Bury St. Edmunds for non-infectious and accident cases.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are provided by the County Council at Bury St. Edmunds.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Inspection of places where food is prepared :—

Bake Houses.

Twelve, generally kept in good order.

Slaughter Houses.

Twelve, frequently inspected and generally found satisfactory, complaint received in respect of one.

Bacon Factory.

One, generally good condition, complaints sometimes regarding the disposal of refuse. There has also been a complaint during the year regarding the effluent from the factory, aggravated by the dry summer. Work is being carried out to endeavour to prevent this nuisance.

Dairies—Cow Sheds.

These have all been inspected and found satisfactory.

Disinfection.

This is carried out after recovery from infectious disease, also after death from consumption when notified.

Nuisances reported during the year :—

Accumulation of manure and refuse—8.

Animal nuisances—3.

Ditches—3.

Complaints—17.

Nuisances from foul closets—11.

Defective drains—6.

Defective privies—16.

Dirty premises—1.

Overcrowding—2.

Number of privies converted to pail closets—6.

Newly constructed pail closets owing to insufficient accommodation—2.

Other nuisances—30.

Wells.

Many of the shallow wells became dry and in most instances were cleaned out by the owners. Notices were served in respect of 4 wells, 3 of which were cleaned out, the fourth caved in and is still in hand.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A local part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector and an Inspector of Nuisances.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) As part of the local authority's housing schemes	...	...	...	...	...	9

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	516
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	66
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	28

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. —

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs

nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners					nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	76
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	53
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners					nil

C—Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planing, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	3
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	nil

As a brief summary I would call your attention to the facts that the Vital Statistics for the last two years (1920 and 1921) are much more satisfactory than they have been for many years, that there has been no particular sickness in spite of the great shortage of water in many districts, but that the cottage accommodation is still very bad in some parishes, and in a few cottages there is still serious overcrowding.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me, and the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance during the year and for his Sanitary Report.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. C. HOUNSFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.